

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ceremonies Honoring Veterans to Be Held May 28 at State Veterans Cemeteries

RICHMOND—The Virginia Department of Veterans Services will hold Memorial Day ceremonies honoring veterans at the state's two veterans cemeteries on May 28. The ceremonies will begin at 10 a.m. at both cemeteries.

John Marshall, Secretary of Public Safety, Senator Harry Blevins, and Congressman Bobby Scott will be the guest speakers at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery, located at 5310 Milners Road in Suffolk. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Secretary Marshall will place a wreath at the Committal Shelter on behalf of Governor Kaine. This event is sponsored by Commander Frank Brown, Jr. and members of the Disabled American Veterans Murray-Rhea Peninsula Chapter/Unit 6.

William H. Leighty, Governor Kaine's Chief of Staff, will be the guest speaker at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery located at 10300 Pridesville Road in Amelia. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Chief of Staff Leighty will place a wreath at the Committal Shelter on behalf of Governor Kaine. The event at the Veterans Cemetery in Amelia is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Amelia Post 8759 and Post 8759 Ladies Auxiliary.

American flags will be placed on grave sites at both cemeteries. Weather permitting, 75 flags will be erected along the perimeter road at the Veterans Cemetery in Amelia, creating the Avenue of Flags. At both cemeteries, cemetery staff will help visitors locate grave sites, and military service members and veterans can file pre-applications for future burial in the cemeteries.

Service members who were honorably discharged and who were Virginia veterans either at the time of enlistment or at the time of death qualify for burial in one of Virginia's veterans cemeteries. A grave site, opening and closing of the grave, a marker, and perpetual care of the site are provided to the veteran at no charge. Veterans' spouses and eligible dependent children may be interred for a small fee, currently \$300.

"Many of Virginia's veterans don't realize that these two cemeteries are available to them," commented Vince Burgess, Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services. "We want to make sure that Virginia's veterans and their families know about these two beautiful facilities."

Visit www.virginiaforveterans.com for more information about Virginia's veterans cemeteries as well as other benefits available to veterans.

—Sidebar—

Quick Facts About Virginia's Veterans Cemeteries

Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery

5310 Milner's Road
Suffolk, Virginia 23434
757-255-7217

Acreage: 74
Capacity: 35,456 sites (casketed gravesites, in-ground cremation sites, and columbarium niches)
First Burial: December 13, 2004

Virginia Veterans Cemetery at Amelia

10300 Pridesville Road
Amelia, Virginia 23002

Acreage: 127
Capacity: 57,324 sites (casketed gravesites, in-ground cremation sites, and columbarium niches)
First Burial: June 18, 1997